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YELLOW FEVER STUDIES.

In June 1879 the National Board of
Health of the United States appointed a
commission of experienced physicians and
engineers to go to Havana and other cities
in Cuba to study their sanitary condition
and to obtain as much information as pos-
sible on the causes and prevalence of yellow
fever on that island. The gentlemen ap-
pointed to conduct the investigations were
Dr. S. E. Challis, Dr. G. M. Sternberg, T.
S. Hardee, C. E., and Dr. J. Guiteras.
The commission arrived at Havana July
7th and continued its investigations until
near the end of September. While in Cuba
the commission received valuable assistance
from native societies and physicians, and
from the American consuls in the various
ports of that island. We extract the follow-
ing from the preliminary report made by the
commission on its return to the United
States.

The year 1762 was a notable one to
Havana, since it was besieged, captured,
and held by an English force of some thirty
thousand soldiers and sailors for more than
a year. In that year a yellow-fever epidemic
committed destructive ravages, and it is not
singular that many historians should have
committed the apparently inconsequent error
of stating that the disease first appeared in
this notable year. However, ample histori-
cal proofs have been secured to establish
that the first epidemic occurred in 1761, and
the second in 1762. Although the disease
made its first historical appearance in 1761,
there are historical allusions sufficient to
justify strong belief that yellow fever had
existed in Havana and Cuba in four of the
sixteen years 1648 to 1655. Convincing his-
torical evidence has also been secured that
since 1761 yellow fever has been persist-
ently endemic in Havana, present every
year from then to the present time.

Reports have been secured from twenty
seaboard towns, including the "port of
entry," and from more than twenty of the
chief inland towns. The most general
result is that yellow fever habitually prevails
in every place in Cuba from which reports
were received provided these places are of
any size or commercial importance and con-
tain any considerable number of unacclimated
persons to furnish food for the wide-spread
poison.

At Havana the yellow fever endemicity is
most marked; indeed it would not convey a
false idea to state that the disease is gen-
erally epidemic from June to October, and
endemic during the remaining months of the
year. This endemicity, however, did not
exist prior to 1761, yet before this time
the geography, geology and meteorology of
Havana were what they continue to be.

It appears that the prevalence of yellow
fever in Havana during certain months only
has so increased that the disease is present
every month, and that the causes must be
sought in conditions other than those which
existed there prior to 1761.

The whole truth has very certainly not
been fathomed; but this much of it is indis-
putable: Wherever in Cuba a town exists
which has the greatest commercial inter-
course, the most numerous unacclimated
population, the least exposure to the winds,
and houses the most crowded together,
densely inhabited and filthy, the worst ven-
tilated and drained,—there a town will be
found wherein the endemic prevalence of
yellow fever is most marked.

Nature has afflicted Cuba with swamps
adjacent to the localities appropriated by
man; has provided these places with a
menger or inconvenient water supply; has
constructed the island, for the most part,
of coral limestone or other porous, friable rocks,
covered to only a slight depth with surface
soil; and has located this fertile island, so
tempting to man's greed of gain, in a climate
which favors to the utmost decomposition,
putrefaction, and the propagation of vegeta-
ble and animal life. Man may hold
nature directly responsible for any sanitary
evils resulting from these conditions, which
however, it history be true, failed during
centuries to produce either small-pox or
yellow fever. But for sanitary conditions
other than these man is forced to consider to
what extent he himself is responsible. Man-
kind in Cuba is by no means exceptional in
having not only neglected this responsibility,
but also in having, from ignorance and
avarice, even abetted nature in its warfare
against him. He imperatively needs an
abundance of potable water, an unpolluted
soil, and, above these, an unlimited
supply of pure air. What has been done or
left undone in Havana to secure these re-
quisites to healthy life?

About four miles west of the entrance to
the harbor of Havana the river Almendares
empties into the sea. It is fed chiefly by
springs, and the water is said by experts to
be good. Since about 1600 Havana has
received its chief supply from this small
stream—first by means of the "zanja," or
water-course (in truth a ditch); second, by
the "aqueduct of Ferdinand VII.," and
third by the "aqueduct of Isabel II.," still
uncompleted. Although Havana now ob-
tains its water through all three of these
channels, these fail to furnish it with a
supply adequate, either in quantity or qual-
ity. The water of the Zanja, which is
still used throughout a large portion of
the city in whole or mixed in part with the
other supply, flows for some four miles
through unprotected mud banks, the fluids
from many houses drain into it, men and
horses baffle, and dead bodies have been
seen floating in it. It can not be pure.
But the impurity of this supply of water to
a portion of the population is in no slight
comparison to that which results from the
inadequate supply of water of any kind to
the whole population. So costly and so
inadequate is this supply that very few houses
of the working class are provided with it,
and a large portion of the population pur-
chase their water daily in kegs and carboys
from street vendors.

The insanitary evils which result from
this general insufficiency of water in a trop-
ical climate are much greater than would
ensue farther north. When bathing be-
comes difficult, and washing so exhorbitant
that it costs from twenty to thirty cents in
gold to have a gentleman's shirt washed, it
is not strange that personal cleanliness should
be so little attended to that an immensely
large portion of the people are offensive to
the smell. This lack of cleanliness extends
within the houses, into the unpaved streets,
the stables, markets, and for the most part
everywhere. Further details are useless, as
also insistence upon the pollution of the
soil, and of the air, and of other manifest
evils which necessarily result from an in-
sufficient supply of water. It should never be
forgotten that "clean water, adequately used,
is among the simplest, safest, best of anti-
septics."

While a varying proportion of Havana,
Matanzas, Cardenas and Cienfuegos is built
upon ground elevated from ten to one hun-
dred feet above the level of the sea, another
very considerable portion occupies the site
of former mangrove swamps, which have
been filled up, in large part, with the refuse
and garbage from the streets. A very large
proportion of the population live where the
subsoil water is reached in from two to six
feet of the surface, and it is very common to
find privies wherein the contents rise and
fall with the tide. In higher localities the
thin surface soil and the foundation rocks
beneath it are extremely porous, and permit
a high degree of saturation from the subsoil
water, from frequent and abundant rains,
and from excremental fluids. So great is
this saturation and the defective structure of
the houses, that a moisture-mark is found
high up on the walls even of many houses
located from fifty to one hundred feet above
the sea. As a general rule good drainage
is found in no parts of these cities, except in
the comparatively extensive localities where
nature has needed no assistance.

A comparatively small number of the
streets in the most densely populated por-
tions of Havana have sewers, some of which
empty into the harbor and others into the
sea. A well-informed civil engineer testified
that the sewers of only three streets subser-
vied any good purpose, and that the remain-
der were so faulty that the city would be
better off without them. Riologists have
repeatedly associated the causation of yellow
fever with upturning of the earth, so that
this is prohibited during the summer in
some parts of the United States. If there be
in Havana any such prohibition this was
certainly not enforced during the summer
of 1879.

About one-fourth of the population of
Havana live within the now demolished
walls, and this "intramural" population
possesses streets so narrow that on every
corner is posted either "up" or "down"
to indicate to all vehicles that they must pass
only in the direction indicated. The nar-
rower the streets the less well ventilated the
houses thereon, and a large portion of Ha-
vana suffers severely from this cause. More
than half the population of Havana live on
streets which are in a foully insanitary con-
dition.

Nine-tenths of all the houses in Havana
were, in 1862, and are still, one-story
houses. These one-story houses occupy
very little space; they have no back yards,
properly so called, but courts or narrow
vacant spaces into which the sleeping rooms
open at the side; in direct contact with these
are the kitchen, privy, and often the stables,
which terminate in these courts. In Havana
some of the floors, in Matanzas more, in
Cardenas and Cienfuegos many, are of earth
or of planks almost in contact with the wet

soil. In Havana most of the floors are of
brick or stone paving. Ventilation be-
tween the ground and the floor is almost
unknown in Cuba. Most of the houses in
Havana and many other cities are of *mam-
bateria*, or rubble masonry, which is very
porous and absorbs readily, as the wall mois-
ture abundantly testifies. The roofs are of
tile and excellent. The ceilings are high
and the doors and windows are generally
very large; but this is true rather for the
front and rear of the main building than for
the side rooms which open into the court.
The privy is almost a part of the kitchen; it
consists of an excavation which often extends
several feet under the stone flags of the
court; it is never emptied until it will hold
no more, which seemed to be from five to
ten years; it has no ventilating pipe and
belches forth its nauseous odors at times even
some and disgusting can be conceived. They
are so bad they can not be worse. In just
opposition is another excavation to receive
the filthy refuse-water of the kitchen, laun-
dry, and household generally, for police
regulations prohibit the discharge of such
water into the streets except while it is min-
ing. This refuse-water is said to undergo a
putrefaction which renders it intolerably
offensive.

More cheerless and comfortless houses
than those occupied by the working classes
and the people generally would be difficult
to find. Since water is ill supplied the peo-
ple are not more cleanly in their houses
than in their persons. But as badly con-
structed and kept as are their houses rent is
rendered very high, as are also food and
clothing, by taxation and by export as well
as import duties. Owing to such causes
most workmen, even those receiving from
\$50 to \$100 wages per month, live in such
small tenement-houses as have been de-
scribed. It is very rare for a workman to
have a house, however small and mean, for
the exclusive use of himself and family. He
is forced to rent out every room, reserving
for his own family one, perhaps two. The
result is that these little houses, occupying
an unusually insignificant space of ground,
are densely crowded. So that in every city
the proportion of inhabitants to houses is
enormous, especially where the diminutive
size of these one-story houses is considered.
The proportion of the civil and military popu-
lation to the houses in Havana is nearly
twelve to one.

The condition of the houses has been
poorly described if the description does not
account for the fact that in the summer
season a fecal or urinary odor prevails gen-
erally, and that in traversing the streets a
musty, nauseous, or fecal odor is distinctly
perceptible as it oozes from the doors and
windows of almost every house. Moist,
foul, stagnant air, confined low to the
ground, is found everywhere in Cuba, so
everywhere can be seen the refuse of fruits
and vegetable substances, furnishing abun-
dant materials for decomposition, while num-
erous turkey-buzzards, roosting on the
trees and house-tops of populous cities,
sufficiently testify to ample supplies for ani-
mal putrefaction.

It has now been shown that the actual san-
itary condition of Havana and other Cuban
ports is very bad; that the water supply is,
in part, defective in quality and wholly in-
sufficient in quantity; and that hygienic
laws are so violated that many causes are
in constant operation to grossly pollute the soil,
the air, and the harbor. A violation of hy-
gienic laws is prone to be followed by the
worse results the warmer the climate and the
denser the population—disastrous con-
ditions which approach their maxima in
Havana.

RICE CULTURE IN LOUISIANA.

The cultivation of rice in Louisiana as a staple
crop is a comparatively new industry, as it is only
since the year 1864 that it has assumed any importance.
The yield in 1864-65 was only 9,866 bbls. After
that there was a steady increase until 1870-71, when
the production had reached 61,256 bbls., an increase
of over six fold. The crop of 1871-72 was a bad
one, the product being only 25,873 bbls. The next
year, however, it sprang up to 52,206 bbls., and
in 1873-74 it had reached 97,126 bbls. From that
time until 1876-77 there was a large annual in-
crease, the crop for the latter year having reached
181,000 bbls., the largest crop ever produced in
Louisiana. The crop of 1877-78 was 143,000 bbls.,
and of 1878-79, the present year, 164,000 bbls. The
value of rice as a money crop can be seen in the
fact that of the 164,000 bbls. raised in 1878-79,
150,000 bbls. were marketed, leaving only 14,000
bbls. for seedling and home consumption. The high
and remunerative prices realized on the last crop of
this staple induced planters to cultivate it largely,
and fully 50,000 acres were put in rice in the state.
Under ordinary circumstances this would have pro-
duced from 250,000 to 300,000 bbls., the largest
crop by far that Louisiana had ever produced.

S. PAULO AND RIO DE JANEIRO RAILWAY.

The shareholders of the São Paulo and Rio de
Janeiro railway company met in special session at
the company's office in Rio de Janeiro on the 31st
ult. The following report of objects and results
of the meeting is taken from the *Provincia*, of São
Paulo:

A call had been made for this extraordinary meet-
ing by many of the shareholders in this province and
published in this paper a month ago. The object of
the meeting was:

1st.—The discussion and voting upon the act of
Oct. 10 in which the general assembly of the share-
holders resolved to transfer the seat of the company
from Rio de Janeiro to São Paulo.

2nd.—Report of the directors on the use made of
the authorization to raise a loan in this country.

3rd.—Report of the directors on the progress of
the petition made to the imperial government for car-
rying out the said transfer.

4th.—Report of the directors on the reasons why
neither one of the two dividends due for 1879 has
been paid.

The meeting was opened at noon, Mr. Antonio
da Fonseca Mello of Rio being called to the chair,
who appointed C. Francisco Martins d'Almeida
of São Paulo secretary. There were about thirty
shareholders present who represented many ab-
sent ones by powers of attorney. In treating of the first
part of the order of the day a long, and at times
disorderly debate was engaged in, it being quite
evident that it was the purpose of some of the Rio
shareholders to disavow the work of the meeting when
they found it impossible to overcome the large
number of votes favoring the transfer of the seat of
the company. Fortunately the majority of the as-
sembly did not accept the challenge held out by
four or five members of the minority tending to
throw matters into confusion, but reserved them-
selves for the triumph when matters came to a vote.
When this was finally accomplished the act of Oct.
10 was approved by a vote of over 300 against a
little over 100.

When a second order of the day was reached,
Dr. Marques de Sá, president of the directory, read
a long report giving the information asked for by
the shareholders. In view of the importance of
this subject and the necessity of acting deliberately,
seeing that it is a matter of figures, dates and other
elements necessary for forming a sound opinion,
Dr. Falcão Filho proposed that the report be
printed and distributed among the shareholders and
submitted to the finance committee to be reported
upon when it reports on other matters in its charge.
Carried.

The session was about to be closed when
Dr. Pereira Dias, in order to avoid the trickery,
which has unfortunately already been practised in
the company, of the acts of the meeting being an-
nulled by a few of the shareholders who might meet
in some future session, proposed that the acts of this
meeting be drawn up and signed at once. This
measure excited strong opposition on the part of
some of the Rio shareholders, but it was carried by
a large majority. The chairman then suspended the
session for an hour and a half. During the interval
the decision was drawn up, and the meeting being
called to order again at 2-45 it was discussed and
unanimously approved by the shareholders present
representing over 300 votes, almost all the opposi-
tion having withdrawn. This is taken one more
step in the first purpose of the province of São
Paulo of reclaiming what by all right and reason be-
longs to her.

* A copy of the call for this meeting, signed by forty odd
shareholders representing nearly 8000 shares, was sent in
early last month, but failed to reach its destination. Sub-
sequently a translation of the call was sent which did not reach
until after the meeting was held.—*Lib. News.*

THE REPORT of the national commission appointed
to investigate whatever pertains to the yellow fever
in Cuba, make public the startling fact that the fever
prevails at every point on the island, so far as in-
quiries have extended. No place in Cuba seems to
have been discovered which is exempt from the
plague, its ravages depending mainly upon the
number of unacclimated persons within the influence
of the infection.

CHIEF of the Bureau of Statistics Nimmo says
that the total tonnage of American vessels entered
at the exports of the United States from foreign
countries during the last fiscal year, namely 3,049,-
744 tons, shows an increase of only one per centum
over the preceding year, while the foreign tonnage
entered during the same period amounted to 10,-
718,394 tons, an increase of almost twenty-six per
centum. American vessels carried \$41,000,000
worth of goods less than during the year before.

THE OFFICIAL figures show that during the first
quarter of the current fiscal year the export of
wheat from the United States was sixty-one million
bushels, being an increase over that for the cor-
responding period last year of nineteen million
bushels. The increase in the cotton export, as
compared with the same quarter last year, is only
less marked. Then it was, in round numbers, fifty-
one million pounds for the like period this year it
was eighty-five million pounds. For the same time
the export of bacon and hams was, in round num-
bers, one hundred and thirty-two million pounds
against one hundred and eighteen million pounds
for the corresponding period last year.—*Inter-
Ocean.*

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RIO DE JANEIRO, FEBRUARY 15TH, 1880.

IN VIEW of the possible breaking out of a yellow fever epidemic this season in this city, we have given some extracts from the preliminary report of an American commission upon the sanitary condition of Havana and other Cuban ports. These investigations, although they do not solve some of the vexed questions as to this dreaded disease, serve to show the insanitary conditions and manner of life in some of those cities where it is ever present. They serve to show that wherever there is a combination of certain climatic and insanitary evils there will be found a favorable locality for the yellow fever scourge. An examination of this report shows many resemblances between the cities of Havana and Rio de Janeiro, and consequently many of the conditions favorable to the existence of yellow fever. As in Havana, yellow fever is endemic here; its victims are recorded in every month of the year. The "annual mean" of temperature at Havana—varying from 77° to 79° Fahr.—is about the same here. The conditions and requirements of life also bear a close resemblance to each other. To particularize we may say that here, as in Havana, there is an insufficient supply of water; there are narrow and unclean streets; there are parts of the city built upon low, badly-drained grounds; there is a large proportion of mud-walled, badly-arranged houses with earth floors, or wood floors in contact with the earth; there is a general disregard as to the location and care of closets; there is throughout the older districts of the city and the low grounds a complete saturation of the earth with organic matter; there is a great crowding together of the poorer people in these unwholesome quarters and badly-arranged houses; there is great uncleanness both in person and habit among the masses of the people; there is an imperfect drainage system; there is the highly dangerous practice of making land-locked bays, like Botafogo and São Christovão, the recipients of drainage and filth of all kinds; and there has been no persistent and scientific effort made to root out the evil. Measures have been taken to check the disease in times of epidemic, and are now being taken in view of its possible return, but the danger once passed has always brought an end to all administrative efforts to suppress it. Although suffering less severely than Havana, this city has long had its rising and falling with the seasons in the death rate from yellow fever, and it has had its periodical returns of that disease in its dreaded character as an epidemic. Besides that it has a history which records a time when this fever was unknown—a proof that the evil lies in the violations of sanitary science which have arisen somewhere and sometime in its growth. A study of this Havana report in connection with the insanitary conditions of this city shows what special violations are coexistent with the fever; whether the correction of these evils will bring exemption from the disease is the problem to be solved. In many respects the city of Rio de Janeiro differs greatly from Havana, and the advantage is always on its side. A large part of it is built upon many hills and mountain sides, where there is pure air and natural drainage. As a whole there is no city in the world which can be more easily and thoroughly drained than Rio de Janeiro. It has a spacious harbor where all crowding of the shipping can easily be avoided. The rise and fall of the tide is much greater than at Havana, consequently there is less danger to be anticipated from accumulating de-

posits or stagnant water. Its drainage system, if connected with an abundant supply of water and carried outside the harbor entrance, is amply sufficient to meet its sanitary requirements. Its streets are in general excellently paved and its main thoroughfares are kept praiseworthy clean. Besides that it has neighboring mountain resorts which afford every relief to the health-seeker that could be wished. All these advantages are already in the possession of the people of this city. Instead of adding to them we find an insufficient water supply, narrow, and in many parts of the city unclean streets, the presence in almost every street of public urinals without either protection from sight or water to keep them clean, the accumulation of refuse and garbage in various localities, an arrangement of the streets between and leading from Castle and S. Antonio hills which shuts out in great part the free circulation of prevailing winds through the low and densely-inhabited parts of the city, the toleration of stables and crowded tenement houses, the pollution of its bays, and the continuation of a style of building which defies every hygienic requirement of the climate. A great majority of the business houses are perfect breeding places of fever because of filthy closets and imperfect ventilation—and these evils are permitted by men who are abundantly able to correct them. These evils demand immediate attention because of the large number of unaccustomed persons brought into immediate contact with them. Every man who keeps an unclean closet in his place of business should be fined. Every one of those indecent and unwholesome street urinals should be immediately abolished, and their places should be supplied by structures which meet the sanitary and orderly requirements of a civilized people. All badly-ventilated houses should be reconstructed, and the erection of no new building should be permitted whose plans do not show a thorough system of drainage and ventilation. Then, too, let the further building of unsightly mud walls be prohibited, for they obstruct the circulation of air through the city, reflect heat, and offend the eye. These improvements in connection with others can not fail to greatly improve the healthfulness of this city.

HERE'S RICHNESS!

A healthy spirit of enquiry still pervades the adventurous Yankee in matters pertaining to the great Southern Empire. It is evident that Fletcher, Smith, Codman and the host of scenic artists who have "done" the "Land of the Cocoa and the Palm," are not considered good and indisputable authority regarding the material elements of Brazil's bounteous spread. Caution is characteristic of the Yankee. He "wants to know, you know," before he makes a move. The following letter recently received is published for the benefit of the author of the next book on Brazil. The points are neatly taken, and will be well worth working up:

QUOGUH, LONG ISLAND,
New York.

Dear Sir—My friend—Please Inform me how you like South America at this time—Is it healthy Country—Please Inform me What Shos Is they In the Railroad Line of Business What Wages Does the Railroad Companies Give there Engineers & the Other men In the Railroad Line of Business. What Wages Do they Give Per Day or By the month—Also what wages Do they Give Such as Railroad Agents & Conductors on the Cars.

Please Inform me What Carpenter wages Per Day.
Also what Shos Is they In Organs & Pianos—What Does good Organs & Pianos Worth there In South America—Would It Be a good Paying Business to Ship, Organs & Pianos from the United States, there to Sell—Could there Be Many Sales Made In this Line of Business—Also to teach, Ladies & Gentlemen how to Play & Sing on the Organ—Also What Shos Would they Be In A good teacher In Vocal music In the Seven Character Notes—A New System Can Learn to Sing In the one fourth Less time than In the old System I mean Church tunes & Spiritual Songs & Anthems, to Learn to Sing & Play on the Organ.

What Is the Best Business to Go Into to make money the fastest to Gain In Wealth. Have you Run against any of the Rodgers Name In South America. I have some of the Name of Rodgers Are Relations In South America. I would Be Happy to Correspond with them If I new what part they were In Please Answer my questions Please Write Soon Yours truly I Remain your Friend.

GENL. J. BAWLEY RODGERS.

Please Give me Several Citys & towns In South America the Post office Address then I can rite & find out If there Is Any of the Name of Rodgers.

RAILROAD NOTES.

—The 14th dividend of seven per cent. of the São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro railway was paid on the 31st inst.

—Two passenger cars and four freight cars are constructing in Pernambuco for the city railway of Fortaleza, Ceará.

—Four kilometers more of the extension of the Sorocabana railway to Boetava were approved by the president of São Paulo on the 24th ult.

—The Camocim railway had received 270 tons of rails up to the 21st ult. Five locomotives and several cars were received from the United States on the 20th ult.

—The semi-annual meeting of the "Paulista" railway company is called for the 29th inst. It can be done—but we hope the company will select another date next year.

—A large number of business and professional men of Valença have petitioned the government against the extortionate charges and exactions of the "União Valenciana" railway company.

—A telegram from São Paulo on the 7th inst. announced the interruption of traffic on the São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro line because of the destruction of a part of the road bed by rains.

—The general receipts of the Leopoldina railway for 1879 were 1,100,256\$56, as against 870,321\$48 in 1878. Including the Pirapincanga branch, the company now has 248 kilometers of line.

—It is reported that in the month of April next the estimates and tenders for the prolongation of the railway between Angolinhos and Serinha will be delivered to the provincial government of Pernambuco.

—Decree 7,619 of the 31st ult. concedes a 90-years privilege to Constaudo da Fracsa Amaral for the construction and use of a narrow gauge railway from the bay of S. Francisco on the coast of Santa Catharina to the town of Rio Negro in Paraná.

—During the year 1879 the receipts of the Batut railway, Ceará, were 233,278\$150 and the expenses 137,750\$528. The line transported gratuitously during this time 130,510\$847 for public relief, and 37,826\$551 for prolongation of the road.

—The track of the Santo Antonio de Padua railway has been laid to a place called Casa Branca, fifteen kilometers from S. Fidélis. Some of the station buildings have already been erected at S. Fidélis. It is expected that traffic on the first sixteen kilometers will be opened this month.

—The receipts of the "Rede & S. Francisco" railway for 1879 were 902,761\$552; expenses 610,732\$50. For 1878 the receipts were 786,307\$218; expenses 501,199\$197. The returns per kilometer for 1879 show that the average receipts were 7,237\$200, and the expenses 4,866\$086.

—During the year 1879 the Dom Pedro II railway carried 1,634,355 suburban passengers and 859,600 passengers and from the interior. The freight traffic comprised 8,047 tons of baggage and 315,830 tons of freight and merchandise. The total receipts from all sources were 11,472,172\$195, against 10,030,290\$963 in 1878.

A PHILADELPHIA dispatch states that during the present month about ten million dollars, principally in gold—single and half eagle pieces—will be coined at the mint.

WHEN the time ball on the Western Union Co's building in New York is dropped twelve hundredths of a second fast or slow they publish the fact in all the city papers and seem to feel very badly about it.

LOCAL NOTES

—The number of yellow fever burials during the first ten days of the present month was 96, which gives more than double the daily average in January. The maximum number of burials in one day was 20, on the 6th.

—The destruction of so many *cortijos* and the sudden action of the board of health in reducing the number of people inhabiting them raises an important question—"what are these poor people to do for shelter?" The steps taken by the health authorities are certainly necessary ones, but simply turning people into the streets at this season destroys all the good results sought.

—According to the *Cruzeiro* of the 10th the Ceará refugees living in this city at public expense have been notified that they will be required to provide for themselves after fifteen days. They will be furnished with transportation either to the interior or to Ceará, as they may choose. They are perfectly right. These people should have been compelled to support themselves long ago.

—The *Jornal* of the 10th called attention to a driver in the employ of the Misericórdia hospital who left his carriage, containing a sick person, in the street twenty-two minutes, the day previous, while he went into a *condô* for coffee. The following day the hospital authorities admitted the accusation and announced the discharge of the driver. The promptness with which the matter was settled is highly commendable.

—The United States corvet *Albatross* is indebted to one of our correspondents for the fastest time on record between New York and this port. We intended to give the time as "sixty-eight" days, but the printer knew that the *Albatross* could do it in much less time—so he put it down at "eighty" days. We shall hereafter try to fully enlighten this compositor on all such matters before submitting our copy to him for revision.

—The Emperor's visit to Paraná has been postponed until the end of the month.

—A privilege for a new system of crushing sugar cane was granted to Isidore Moreau by decree 7,610, of the 24th ult.

—The transport *Puma* has been ordered to get ready with all dispatch and then proceed to Pernambuco.

—William Darley Bentley has been appointed Brazilian consul for the Dominion of Canada, without salary.

—The Peruvian minister at this capital has notified the Brazilian government of an absolute prohibition on all commerce between Peru and Chili.

—Decree 7,488, of September 13, 1879, concedes a three years' mining privilege to Arthur Bud in the *comarca* of Poconé, Matto Grosso.

—Dr. Eduardo Adolpho de Lima Barros has been appointed fiscal engineer of the Botanical Garden R.R. Company to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Antonio Paulo de Mello Barreto.

—The minister of marine has directed that the gumbot *Príncipe do Grão Pará* shall be made ready for a voyage, the object of which is not yet announced.

—Irregularities are said to exist in the freight service of the Dom Pedro II railway. The minister of agriculture recommends the nomination of a commission to the minister of finance.

—The recent medical examinations at Bahia turned loose eighty-six more doctors upon a defenseless world. Forty of them were from the Rio medical college.

—The number of workmen employed in cleaning the Lagoa de Freitas has been doubled, and the lake is to be improved according to the plans of Barão de Teffé.

—On the 8th, 9th and 10th there was a solemn exposition of the Holy sacrament in the Santa Theresa convent to appease the divine displeasure at the excesses of the carnival.

—A fight took place on the night of the 6th inst. between a large number of soldiers of the 10th battalion and some policemen. Several individuals on both sides received wounds. The soldiers were the aggressors.

—A slave of Custodio da Silva, named Lourenço, attempted to drown himself on the evening of the 8th inst., but was prevented. He said that he wished to die because he had been ill-used by his master.

—The board of health of Montevideo has adopted a quarantine of five days on steamers arriving from Porto Alegre and Rio Grande do Sul, and seven days on steamers and five days on sailing vessels arriving from ports infested with yellow fever.

—Decree No. 7,607, of the 10th ult. grants a privilege to Luiz Schreyer, Predicador José von Hoonoltz and Luiz Bouleick for the establishment of a porcelain manufactory in the municipality of Rio de Janeiro.

—The Visconde de Santo, so long known in financial circles in this city, was taken gravely ill on the 5th at his office, and has since been confined to his house. The cause of the illness was a congestion of blood in the head.

—According to the *Jornal* there are about 44,000 slaves registered in this city. They are owned by some 14,000 or 15,000 persons. Of this number of slave owners, less than 8,000 have complied with the new matriculation law up to the present time.

—Dr. Ladislao Netto, of the national museum, is making up a collection of fish for the international fish exposition at Berlin next April. This collection is designed to represent the fish-catching industries of the empire.

—The *Diário de Notícias* of Lisbon, of the 19th ult., says that the Brazilian corvet *Vital de Oliveira* had received instructions from Sr. Eduardo Callado to proceed to Tejo where the Chinese cannibals would embark on the 26th or 28th.

—The minister of agriculture has placed 20,000\$ at the disposal of the president of Goyaz for the improvement of roads, particularly that road connecting with the first port on the Araguaya river. That river is to have a line of steamers.

—The various Portuguese societies of this city have resolved to celebrate the third centennial of the death of Camões on the 10th, 11th and 12th of June next. The cornerstone of the new edifice erected by the "Gabinete de Leitura" will be laid at that time.

—As two policemen were taking two women of bad character to the "lock up" on the morning of the 6th inst., Manoel do Espírito Santo, a soldier of the 10th battalion, drew his sabre and attempted a rescue. Manoel was defeated, however, and went to the station also.

—Calculations on the future coffee crop vary greatly, for in some localities it is short while in others it is abundant. We have endeavored to obtain reliable information and by it we estimate the crop at four from four and a half million sacks.—*Jornal do Commercio*, Feb. 4.

—At a recent meeting in New York of the board of directors of the Botanical Garden R.R. Company, George Cecil, Esq., was elected president to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Greenough. Mr. Cecil formerly occupied the position of vice-president of the company.

—José Eduardo Chausé was arrested on the 2nd of January on the charge of attempting to set fire to the gun store of Laport & Co. with kerosene. He has been kept imprisoned up to date without an examination. Dr. Pedro Ferreira Vianna has asked for a writ of *habeas corpus* in his behalf.

—Alderman Soares objects to the public complaints against him for obstructing the streets with his lumber vans because he is now receiving large quantities of lumber which he must unload, and because he can point out other establishments which obstruct the street also.

—It is announced that the road manager of the Dom Pedro II railway is arranging a new time table for passenger and mixed trains in order to better meet the demands of suburban travel.

—The amount appropriated by the minister of war for the military colony of the upper Uruguay, Rio Grande do Sul, for the first six months of 1880 is 16,994\$794.

—The director of the house of correction is charged with illegally retaining prisoners in confinement after the expiration of their terms. One prisoner is said to have been kept some time because the orders for his release were not accompanied by a letter to the director notifying him of the dispatch of the papers.

—The recent suspension of direct aid to colonists from the general government does not refer to those already on the way. The government proposes however to continue the usual aid to immigrants on their arrival here, such as affording them shelter and support on landing and transportation to the provinces.

—All slave proprietors who fail to register their slaves before the 12th of next month will be fined from 40\$ to 100\$ for each slave not matriculated. This registry is purely for revenue purposes and does not therefore supplant the registry provided for by the legislative acts of 1871 and 1872. All slaves not registered under the terms of those acts are free, and can not be lawfully registered now.

—Complaints are made of the administration of the Jurujuba hospital. It is charged that the resources of that institution are insufficient to meet the increased demands upon it. As this is the season's hospital of the port, to which it is obligatory to send all cases of yellow fever from the shipping, it is highly important that its administration shall be beyond all complaint.

—We have received several complaints about the delays lately in the custom house of merchandise, especially of dry goods. It is possible that the delay is due partly to the great number of dispatches made during the month of January, but it is just at the time when work is unexpectedly increasing that extraordinary regulations are adopted, such as the prolongation of the time for dispatching, and others. We are sure that the present inspector will hasten to remove the causes as soon as he learns of this reclamation.—*Jornal*, Feb. 4.

—The inspector general of public works has instructed the Gabriel company not to open treaches in the streets beyond the extent necessary for the immediate laying of the water mains, and not to leave them any longer than is absolutely necessary. In the opening of treaches disinfectants are to be used, especially where organic matter is found. These instructions are wise and timely. They may interfere somewhat with the rapidity of the work, but under present circumstances that can not be avoided.

—The total number of immigrants arriving at this port during the year 1879 was 22,189, of which 20,040 came unmatticulated and 1,549 under government subsidies. The number leaving the country during the year was 8,806, which leaves 13,383 as the actual increase of population through immigration. Of the arrivals (22,189), 6,677 were Italian, 8,841 Portuguese, 2,022 German, 886 Spanish, 312 Austrian, 264 French, 51 British, 7 Russian, and 129 of other nationalities. These figures are from the official report which classifies all third class passengers as immigrants.

—The president of the board of health, Barão de Lavradio, entered a complaint with the minister of Empire on the 5th inst. relative to the insanitary results of the manner in which the Gabriel company are laying water mains in the streets. It is true that the tearing up of the streets at this season is very prejudicial to public health, but why did not the "practical" engineer of the works, Dr. Bealho, anticipate this? As it is we have the two horns of the dilemma to choose between—detritment from the scarcity of water and detriment from the laying of water mains in the streets. The former might well have been avoided, but for the latter we have the foresight of these engineers to thank. And as far the president of the board of health, how is it that he has just awakened to a sense of this danger? He should have foreseen this state of affairs months ago.

—We regret to announce the death of M. Frederick Malpica, manager and editor of *Le Messager du Brésil*, who died with yellow fever on the 10th inst. The deceased was born in Paris in 1843 where he was educated as an engineer. He was employed on the French expedition to Mexico, and was afterwards connected with several railway enterprises in the Platine republics. While in Montevideo he was connected with the French journal *La France*, published in that city. His journalistic career in this city was characterized by a thorough loyalty to the interests of his countrymen and by an intelligent and consistent effort to make his journal a thoroughly reliable exponent and critic of Brazilian public affairs.

—According to the *Jornal* of the 12th there seems to be some crookedness developed already in the new regulations in regard to closing business houses on Sundays. On the 10th inst. José Martins Vianna a hardware dealer in Rua dos Olivares, was notified by the *fiscal* of that parish that he had been fined 30\$ for keeping his store open on the Sunday previous. Sr. Vianna offers to prove by nine merchants of the vicinity that his place was not open. The *fiscal*, Sr. José Maria Gomes, went one step further. He informed the accused that if the fine of 30\$ was paid at his office on the 11th that the accusation would not be carried before the *juiz*. Inasmuch as the ordinance imposes eight days imprisonment in addition to the fine, it looks as though the *fiscal* had exceeded his legal authority somewhat. The public wishes to know by what authority such official promises immunity to offenders on certain suspicious conditions, and remits a part of the penalty. Are *fiscals* invested with judicial and imperial functions?

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—Berti-berti has broken out in the Brazilian naval vessels at Bahia.

—The extraordinary session of the provincial assembly of Santa Catharina closed on the 30th ult.

—The Santos subscriptions to the Osorio monument fund amount to 2,200\$.

—Heavy rains have fallen in various parts of the province of São Paulo.

—Dr. Barque de Macedo is said to be a candidate for the senatorial vacancy from Pernambuco.

—There were 102 burials in the public cemetery of São Paulo during the month of January.

—Counterfeit street-car tickets have appeared in Pará.

—The Italian corvet "Scilla" anchored in the port of Samborombi, Santa Catharina, on the 21st ult.

—A public garden was inaugurated at Campinas on the 1st instant.

—The introduction of slaves in the municipality of Niteroiy has been extended to the 7th of March proximo.

—During 1879, there were 10,429 books drawn from the public library of Rio Grande do Sul. The number of visitors during the year was 6,109.

—A noted cattle thief, Boaventura Pereira in Silva, was recently killed at Passo de Pinto, Rio Grande do Sul.

—The people of Pernambuco are complaining of short weights and an increase in the price of fresh beef.

—The city and vicinity of Victoria, Espírito Santo, have been suffering greatly from drought lately.

—The municipal council of São Paulo has approved the plans for a new public slaughter house presented by Mr. Albert Kuhlmann.

—The *Resendense* of the 29th ult. says that the Paratyba river has lately risen considerably above its usual level.

—The police of Campinas are compelling all women of bad character to leave the hotels of that city.

—The *Epoca* of Amparo, S. Paulo, says that the coming coffee crop will be limited in that locality. The amount is given as the cause.

—There were 1,759 burials in the cemeteries of Pará during the year 1879. This is 565 below the burials of 1878.

—The first grand lottery of the province of Minas Geraes will be for the benefit of the parish church at Juiz de Fora.

—The receipts of the Pará custom house for 1879 were 1,952,294\$99, as against 1,371,035\$87 for 1878.

—The city council of Campinas has asked the São Paulo provincial assembly for an appropriation of 50,000\$ for the construction of a jail.

—The receipts of the Pernambuco custom house for January were 1,060,071\$913, of the general collector's office 47,886\$955, and of the provincial collector's office 219,063\$341.

—A slave woman owned by Dr. Antonio Trolig, of Campinas, recently committed suicide by throwing herself into a well. The cause, it is said, was a whipping inflicted upon the unhappy woman.

—Maranhão dates of the 18th ult. state that the president of that province has been instructed by the general government to erect a custom house on the grounds of the old marine arsenal.

—An Italian woman, Philomena Gervasoni, was assassinated by one Antonio Galla at the Caxias colony, Rio Grande do Sul, on the 15th of December. The assassin was not captured.

—The recent elections in this province for provincial deputies is accounted as a victory for the government. As an election never resulted otherwise, this instance possesses no unusual significance.

—Beraldo José da Silveira, of Campinas, offers a reward of 1,000\$ for the apprehension of the person who killed Theodoro da Silveira Franco on the 19th of February, 1878. The authorities have thus far been unable to discover the name and whereabouts of the assassin.

—On the evening of the 3rd inst. an English merchant of São Paulo, Mr. Andrew Miller, was attacked by a soldier and robbed of a watch and chain in one of the public and central streets of that city. So says the *Pavaneira* of the 5th inst.

—The Maranhão correspondent of the *União* says that the prime minister notified the president of that province that the government had suppressed the popular disorders of the 1st ult. without the effusion of blood.

—The city council of São Paulo has put an embargo upon the laying of rail in the suburbs of that city by a tramway company, because of the embarrassment to wagons and trucks caused by tearing up the streets.

—The receipts of the Bahia custom house for January were, general 837,531\$812, provincial 85,659\$844; and of the collector's office, general 69,117\$016, provincial 55,287\$552. The post-office receipts were 5,958\$60.

—A bottle containing a letter directed to "F. H. Mayer, Anistenas," was found on the Itacoluna beach, near Maranhão, last month. It was written on the bark *Osorio*, July 20, 1879, in lat. 6° 33' N. and long. 22° 51' West.

—An accident took place on the Itatubé railway, near Aguas Verdes, on the 15th ult. It was caused by running against one of a drove of cattle which the engineer could not frighten off the track. No one was killed though the fireman and some others were severely wounded.

—The steward of the German steamer *Bahia* was caught smuggling at Santos on the evening of the 26th. He was detected with a clock, two dozen cravats, a box of cigars, etc., in his possession, which he had brought from the steamer in a small boat.

—The public is informed through a Buenos Ayres journal that the establishment of some coin counterfeiters has been discovered in Bagé, Rio Grande do Sul. Where were the Bagé journals all this time? How is it that such news are obtained only through foreign papers?

—A Santa Catharina correspondent says that about 3,000 bags of coffee were shipped from that port to the River Plate and Rio Grande do Sul during the past year. This coffee was produced on the island near that city and is said to be superior to the São Paulo or Rio de Janeiro coffee.

—A letter from Pesqueira, Pernambuco, to the *Jornal do Recife*, dated Jan. 20, says that there has been a great scarcity of rains in that locality, and the heat is very great. The people of the uplands are emigrating, and are suffering the greatest hardships. Provisions, especially meats, are very dear.

—The *Imparcial*, of Casa Branca, São Paulo, relates that a woman named Euália, wife of Ignacio Curiaço, was publicly whipped in that place recently. Her body was fearfully lacerated and bruised. The man who achieved notoriety by his barbarous act is one Manoel, nicknamed *Ferrador*, who is a public official of some kind.

—The *Jornal do Recife* of the 24th ult. relates that an infirm negro was recently found begging in the streets. His right side was covered with ulcers. He said that he was a slave of Sr. Antonio Gonçalves, a sugar planter in the district of Goyana, who had turned him out into the world to get his own living because he could do no more work.

—Santos has caught the *fechamento* fever also. An advertiser proposes to have the doors of business places closed on Sundays and saints days excepting drug stores, eating houses, hotels, and billiard saloons. Saloons, barber shops, confectionery stores and bakeries will be permitted to keep open until noon.

—An American, named Maria, an employee on the fazenda of Sr. Octaviano Pompon, was found dead on the 4th inst. near the track of the Mogiana railway between the Auhumas and Tanquinho stations, São Paulo. Maria was seen thinking the evening previous and it is supposed that his death was caused by being knocked from the track by the train.

—The Portuguese brig *Aprigio* having discovered a submerged rock in the Antonian channel, lay of Pernambuco, by running upon it, the captain of the port of Parangaba proceeded to an examination and found the report correct. The rock is 99 meters distant, N. 70° E., from the last buoy. This rock is not mentioned in the charts of Mr. Mouchet and Barbo de Tefé.

—They have a very flattering opinion of Sr. Silveira Martins living in Rio Grande do Sul. A writer in the *Reforma*, of Porto Alegre, makes him the peer of Gladstone as a statesman, and believes that, had he been a military man, he would have been the rival of Grant, Osorio and von Moltke. As an orator he is the superior of Gambetta, Disraeli, Gladstone, Blaine and Rodrigues dos Santos. They will watch him against anything down there.

—Two little boys, brothers, living at Timbubá, Pernambuco, were engaged in gambling on the 18th ult. One of them, José, seemed to have the luck all on his side and his winnings soon mounted up to the sum of eighty réis. The other boy, Antonio, then became so enraged with his losses that he drew a knife and stabbed his brother, causing a dangerous wound. He afterwards escaped. With such youthful training it is easy to predict the future career of these boys.

—A father visited his daughter at a girl's seminary in Itá, São Paulo. While conversing with her about her studies, he took occasion to mention that her name did not appear among those receiving the best prizes, while the daughters of Sr. who were unquestionably less intelligent, took rank above her. The daughter innocently replied: "It is true that F—— and P—— have prizes much higher than mine; but, papa, you have made no presents to the college, and their papa, as the sisters say, has made many."

—It seems that the definite and circumstantial charges against the customs officials made by the *Telegraph*, of Maranhão, on the 20th of November last, have thus far produced no result beyond a few official letters. The *Telegraph* gave lists, names, amounts and descriptions of smuggling enterprises since 1874. It likewise arranged high officials in the custom house for complicity in these illegal transactions. It is probable that the reform tidal wave now sweeping through the treasury department, has not yet reached Maranhão.

—According to the recent report of the president of São Paulo to the provincial assembly the revenue of the province for the year 1877-78 was 7,042,318\$637. The report also gives the revenue for 1878-79, exclusive of the months of December and March and inclusive of the months of July, August, September and October, 1879, as 8,454,712\$605. Why the returns are given in this way is a puzzle. It affords no basis whatever for a comparison. Subtracting the receipts for the four months, July-October, 1879, there remains 6,564,118\$961 as the revenue of 1878-79, exclusive of the receipts of December and March.

—Campinas was visited by a heavy rain storm on the 4th and 5th inst. which filled the streets and the basements of many houses with water. On the 5th a little child, almost lifeless, floated down the stream which flowed through Rua do General Osorio, and was about to be precipitated into a culvert which empties into the market canal. A large number of men, among them a soldier, stood looking on and made no other effort to rescue the child than to cry for assistance. A woman, however, saw the infant danger and unluckily rushed into the current and saved the child. The woman's heroism received unbounded praise of course; but what of the men's cowardice?

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City of Pará	Capt. Carpenter	Jan. 28	Feb. 5
City of Rio de Janeiro	Capt. Lewis	Feb. 28	Mar. 5
City of Pará	Capt. Carpenter	Mar. 28	Apr. 5
City of Rio de Janeiro	Capt. Lewis	Apr. 28	May 5

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